11.7 percent of all the livestock, and also the pig, which constitutes 6.7 percent, play a slight role in the animal economy. The situation of animal breeding in Chita Oblast is similar and has the same favorable perspectives. Dairy farming stands in the foreground here in cattle breeding. In the steppe regions of the Onon and Argun a number of studs also serve horse-breeding. In the same region camels are also bred, whose number is given at 7,000. Transbaykal as a whole is a surplus area both in grain cultivation and in animal breeding. 231 433 [234]

/132/ The following table indicates how very prominent the Buryat Mongol ASSR and Chita Oblast are in animal breeding in the overall economy of the Soviet Union:

On a collective farm in 1938 there were:

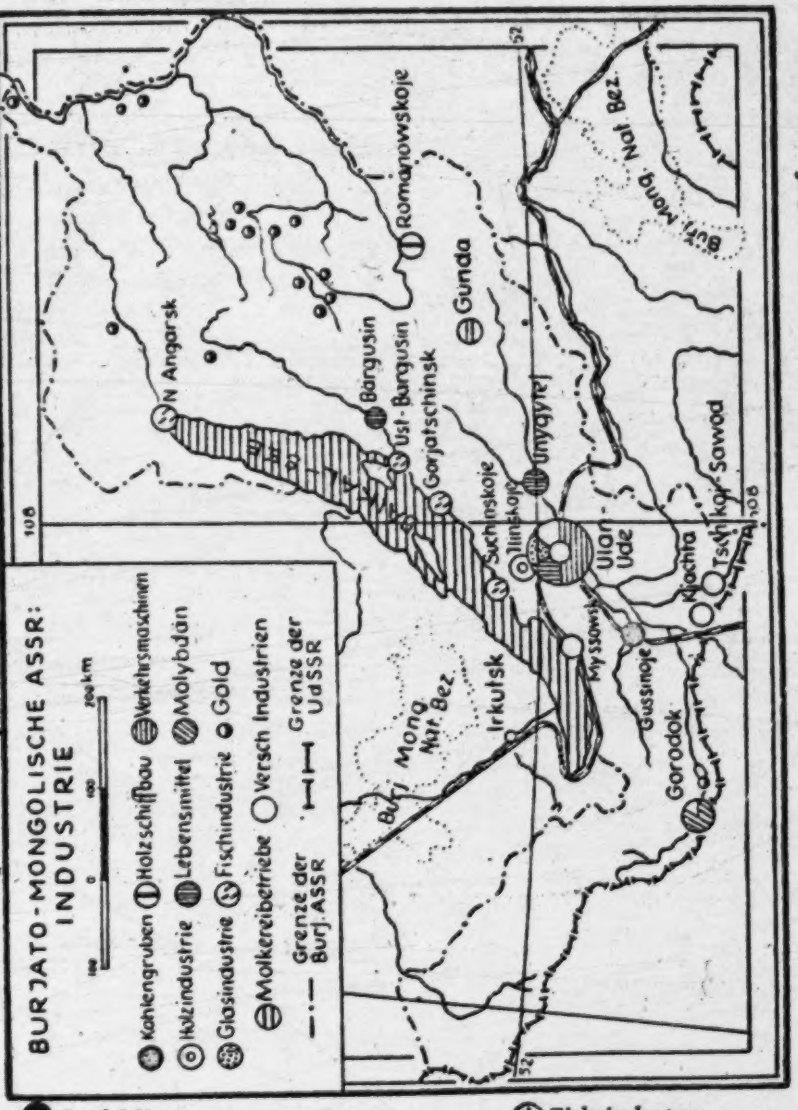
	Soviet Union	Buryat Mongol ASSR	Chita Oblast
Horses	0.7	2.0	2.5
Cattle	2.2	6.0	6.5
Sheep, goats	2.9	19.0	11.9

It is different in the Amur and Ussuri country. Animal breeding is insufficient and doesn't even cover the needs of the area. Even horses must be imported. In the southern part of the Ussuri region milk and work cattle are kept; otherwise a dairy cow farming worthy of mention has developed only in the vicinity of the cities. Meadowlands are lacking for the maintenance of cattle on a large scale. On the other hand cattle can be found in isolated cases everywhere, even in the far north. On Kamchatka their number reaches several thousand. The number of pigs in the Amur and Ussuri region is comparatively larger than in Transbaykal since the Chinese and Koreans also keep pigs. The quality, however, is low. In meat supplies, too, the Far Eastern region requires additional imports.

The reindeer breeding in the extreme northeast of the region deserves special attention. The moss tundra extending from the Chukchi Peninsula into Kamchatka offers excellent grazing land. With the European north, these regions stand in first place in reindeer breeding in the Soviet Union, which has contributed in its further development by establishing several reindeer sovkhoz. The number of animals is estimated at a total of approximately 750,000. The reindeer not only provides meat for local needs, but also provides meat for canning, for which a special factory has been erected in Anadyr'. The hides of

635
316
39
25
323
228
234

Sketch Map of the Buryat-Mongol ASSR: Industry:



Coal Mines
Construction of wooden ships
Transport machinery
Wood industry
Groceries
Molybdenum
Glass industry
Fish industry
Gold
Dairy plants
Various industries

/215/

Border of the Buryat ASSR
Border of the USSR

Both types of steppes[1] have developed on chestnut-colored soil. Within these steppes salt-pans also appear. Further toward the north the soil becomes darker, its humus content becomes greater (3 percent to 5 percent), it changes into the so-called southern black earth, which has only a slight thickness and has a carbonate layer lying near it. The plant growth becomes richer, the contiguousness of the vegetation covering becomes thicker. These are pronounced grazing areas for sheep and goats. For large livestock they are still not sufficient. For such livestock only the meadow steppes can be considered; these meadow steppes often cover large areas along the rivers. To this category belong the Selenga steppes and the valleys of the Dzhida and the Uda. A similar change in the character of the steppes takes place in the direction of the individual mountain chains, with the various types of steppes surrounding the mountain ranges in Isohypsen /isohyetal?/ contours.

The principal importance of the Selenga steppes lies in livestock breeding, which is intensified by the breeding of valuable breeds. The most important regions here are the areas left of the Selenga and the already mentioned valley of the Dzhida. The old yurts of the Buryat have disappeared, and in their place small, permanent, modest wood houses have appeared which in long rows surround the kolkhoz buildings of the concentrated livestock economy. However, in the less favorable grazing areas, as in the Kundara steppe east of Kyakhta, the old Buryat life has been retained. For processing the resulting skins, a rather large leather processing plant has been erected here on the middle Chikoy under the name of Chikoyskiy Zavod. This plant also draws its raw materials from Mongolia. The cultivation of grain is more in the foreground in the other regions on the right side of the Selenga, especially on the lower courses of the Chikoy and the Khilok.

The broad steppe valley of the Uda is the second most important animal breeding area in the Buryat-Mongol ASSR, especially since here numerous Russians have been drawn into animal breeding. In the area around the upper course of the Uda, in the region of the Yeravninsk plain, which is rich in lakes, numerous Russian villages have come into being in which, in addition to slight agriculture, excellent dairy farming is pursued. The largest localities in this region are Gunda and Sosnovo-Ozerskoye.

East of the Selenga, rising from its delta, is the mountain ridge of the Ulan-Burgassy, which forms the watershed between the Uda and the Turka, which empties into Lake Baykal. This mountain range is broader than the Khamar-Daban and has a marked plateau-like surface

[1] [i.e. artemisian and meadow steppes -- Analyst]

634 kilometers, and its population numbers /255/ 108,400 (1939), of which
131 approximately half are Jews. This region is drained by the Bira, whose upper valley is also used by the railroad, and by the Bidzhan. Both of these rivers run through broad valley meadows, which are covered with cultivated fields. From the two rivers the region has also received the
361 name of "Birobidzhan," which is often used. The capital of this oblast also bears the name of "Birobidzhan." Lying on the railroad at the point where the railroad leaves the Bira, this city has around 30,000
[294] inhabitants (1939). Worthy of note is a large clothing and knitted goods factory, which is the sole large installation of this type in the entire
135 Far Eastern region. The western part of the oblast, which has already been mentioned in the discussion of the Bureya Highland, is rich in the most varied natural resources, of which the coal deposits of Bira and the iron ore of Kimkan are supposed to become the basis for the establish-
241 ment of a local heavy industry. The Jews are in all occupations, even in agriculture. In the large section of the west the cultivation of wheat and soybeans predominates; in the smaller eastern section, which is in-
• 234 fluenced by the nearness of the large city of Khabarovsk, the cultivation of potatoes and vegetables and the breeding of dairy livestock predominate.

361 Khabarovsk, which lies below the mouth of the Ussuri on the right side of the Amur, is the administrative and economic center of the entire Amur region. Its favorable location, in terms of transportation, in the center of a mighty river system and at the end of the Amur and Ussuri Railroad has permitted the city to grow very quickly into a large
[161] city. Having a population of only 52,045 in 1926, Khabarovsk almost quadrupled its population by 1929 when it had 199,364 inhabitants, and today its population has probably exceeded 300,000. This rapid
[39] growth in population goes back above all to the expansion and construction of industrial plants. In the foreground is machine construction, especially the construction of machinery for agricultural purposes, the processing of metal and of wood, and a food industry which is brought together in large plants. As the center of the Amur shipping, Khabarovsk has a shipyard in which coastal vessels are also built. A modern cracking
[382] installation has been added to the older oil refinery in order to process
[508] the oil from Sakhalin. Khabarovsk is the center of all air traffic in the Far East. Several airports are available, and, in addition, there
[241] are plants for the construction of airplanes and automobiles. In the wide surroundings of the city there has developed an agricultural economy which is typical of areas near cities and in which the cultivation of vegetables and the breeding of dairy livestock predominate.